3 Indicted In Alleged Bomb Plot

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Three Washington businessmen and a fourth man were indicted yesterday by a federal grand jury in connection with an alleged extortion conspiracy backed by what the government called "bombs-for-hire" ring.

The indictments stemmed from what the U.S. attorney's office said was an attempted $2,000 extortion of another Washington businessman, and the 1968 bombing of an import shop operated by the intended victim's mother.

The night before the bombing, a rifle shot shattered a window in the home of the alleged extortion victim, who then lived about a block away from Vice President Hubert H. Humprey in the Harbor Square complex in the Southwest.

See BOMB, B2, Col. 7

BOMB, From B1

The grand jury said that the target of the extortion attempt was Robert L. Ramey, who has a number of business interests in Washington, including ownership of the "Tatler" magazines, advertising "shoppers" that are distributed free in hotels and in taxicabs.

Among those indicted were Daniel Holland, president of the Mt. Vernon Publishing Co., 1232 9th St. NW, and Mark Waldron, also an officer of the Mt. Vernon firm.

Also charged were Michael Sullivan, president of Westminister Press, 225 Vine St. NW.

A fourth man, David V. Sover, who is being held in jail in Rockville on unrelated convictions on assault and breaking and entering charges, also was named in the indictment.

More Contemplated

Harold J. Sullivan, chief of the major crimes unit of the U.S. attorney's office, said more indictments are "contemplated" within the month as part of a continuing investigation into commercial bombings and arson here.

Sullivan declined to discuss details of the alleged extortion plot, but Ramey, reached at his Virginia Beach vacation home, said it involved an attempt to collect a debt he says he did not owe.

Ramey said the accused businessmen sued him for the debt last year in U.S. District Court and lost the lawsuit. He said that the rifle shot into his then residence at 434 O St. SW, and the bombing of his mother's business both followed threatening telephone calls.

Out of Business

Ramey said his mother's business, the International Bazaar, 2900 M St. NW, sustained about $10,000 damage in the bombing on May 28, 1968. The shop is no longer in business.

Ramey said the early evening gunshot through a plate glass window at his home led to extraordinary police interest in the case because of the proximity of Humphrey's home. "They figured that if someone could shoot into my house, why couldn't they shoot into the Vice President's home," Ramey said.

Holland, reached by telephone yesterday shortly after the indictment was announced by the U.S. attorney's office, said, "I know what this is about, but I just don't want to talk about it now." Waldron and Sullivan could not be reached.

Ramsey said that Tatler Magazines, 1801 Connecticut Ave. NW, had no connection with the alleged extortion attempt or the bombing.

The indictment also charged that on May 26, 1968, two days before the bombing, and explosive device was placed alongside the International Bazaar building, owned by Gusti's Enterprises Ltd. That bomb did not explode.

The indictments specifically accuse Sover with placing both bombs, which Sover is accused of bringing into Washington from Maryland.

A source in the U.S. attorney's office said "it would be correct to assume" that "intermediaries" were involved in the bombing and that more indictments would involve those persons.